

Leader's Question Time – Ham and Petersham

Date: Tuesday 21 November 2017

Time: 6pm – 8.45pm

Venue: Grey Court School

Panel members:

- Brian Wilman (Chair)
- Cllr Paul Hodgins (Leader of the Council)
- Cllr Pamela Fleming (Deputy Leader – Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community)
- Cllr Martin Seymour (Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Development)
- Cllr Peter Buckwell (Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene)
- Cllr Susan Chappell (Strategic Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools)
- Cllr Mark Boyle (Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Health and Community Safety)

Councillors also in attendance:

- Cllr Penelope Frost (Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Ward)
- Cllr Sarah Tippett (Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Ward)
- Cllr Jean Loveland (Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Ward and Lead Scrutiny Member for Environment; Cycling Champion)
- Cllr David Linnette (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and the Voluntary Sector)
- Cllr Stephen Speak (Strategic Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance)

Council Officers in attendance:

- David Allister (Environment & Community)
- Sean Gillen (Economic Development)
- Angela Grzywacz (Community Safety)

- Anna Sadler (Community Links)
- Andrea Kitzberger-Smith (Planning)
- Harriet Steele (Village Planning)

Pre-submitted Questions:

Condition of roads and paths	
Question 1	Tom Mangold - The condition of Ham Street beyond the junction with Sandy Lane and on to Ham House is very very poor. Is there any plan to resurface it?
Response	Response from 26:48 to 28:28.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Buckwell: We will look to see what money is available to bring this work forwards – I cannot advise a total resurface but we will take this into account.
Question 2	Anne Marie Lewis - Recent improvements along the Petersham stretch of the tow path desperately need to be extended from Ham House to Teddington lock and the also the area of the tow path in front of the Petersham meadows also needs to be improved. Please can we understand what the plans are to improve the tow path?
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 00:29:01 to 00:32:48.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fleming: We will look into improving the next stretch of the path and investigate the surface used on South Lane Avenue.
Community Infrastructure Levy	
Question 3	Chris Ruse - The Village Planning Fund accounts for 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy. What are the Council's plans to invest the remainder of the Levy on projects in Ham and Petersham identified in the 'Regulation 123 list'?
Response	Response and supplementary comment from 00:34:03 to 00:35:47.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hodgins: We can have conversations with the Forum about the spend of strategic CIL.
Location of Ham and Petersham	
Question 4	Robert Charlesworth - It is now more than 52 years since Ham & Petersham left Surrey County. Don't you think it is time we acknowledge the fact that we are in the LONDON Borough of Richmond upon Thames. I feel it is pretentious to add Surrey to our

	postal address when it fact Ham & Petersham is part of GREATER LONDON.
Response	Response and supplementary question from 00:36:31 to 00:37:57.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hodgins: If people feel strongly about this, we can take this up with the relevant people to see if this can be changed.
Air quality and cycling	
Question 5	<p>Justine Langford - The LBRuT Air Quality Action Plan 2017, includes the objective ‘to enhance travel choice and reduce congestion’ and a target to increase cycling mode share from 7% in 2014 to 15% in 2026.</p> <p>The LBRuT Cycling Strategy (2016-2016) objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To make cycling journeys safer and easier · To develop cycling as an everyday option · To promote cycling as a safe, fun and healthy way to travel <p>The Mayor’s Transport Strategy 2017, aims to increase the number of journeys made by foot, cycle or public transport from 64% today to 84% in 2041.</p> <p>Can you advise what proposals and projects you have identified for our area (Ham and Petersham) to achieve these objectives including clarification of the status of the “Ongoing evaluation of legal position to utilise tow-paths within the borough to provide additional safe walking/cycling routes” identified in the Air Quality Action Plan?</p>
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 00:39:38 to 00:56:55.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further conversations will be held with Council officers on this.
Traffic and congestion	
Question 6	<p>Andree Frieze - Ham currently has one of highest car usage rates in London due to the scarcity of public transport. What is the Council proposing to do ease the congestion on the roads from Ham to Richmond, Kingston and beyond that the additional dwellings the redevelopment of Ham Close will create, specifically as the designs including parking for one car per property. How will you improve both the capacity and speed of the current bus services and encourage more people to cycle and walk, rather than take their cars?</p>
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 00:59:08 to 01:07:22.
Actions to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will consider controlled parking zones where residents want them as a means of managing congestion.

be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council are continuing to work with TfL and service providers. Cllr Buckwell: would like to hear about where there are car club parking bays in the area.
Open Spaces	
Question 7	Penny Frost - Could you please outline how the recently adopted Public Space Protection Order will affect our open spaces in Ham and Petersham, and how the new regulations will be monitored and enforced.
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 1:07:56 to 1:13:09.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will continue to monitor and enforcement will be carried out by the Council's enforcement team and by the Councils Park Guard service, both of whom patrol the whole borough. The police will also be able to support when resources allow.
Question 8	Sarina Burrows - What possible grounds are there to explain the re-introduction of the plan for a MUGA on Ham Close, when the original suggestion for this received such universal refusal the first time? In fact it was the original threat which galvanised the local community into forming groups to ensure that no building could take place without our agreement and proper consultation by the Council.
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 1:14:39 to 1:16:43.
Actions to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific actions to be taken.

Open Questions from the floor:

Ham Close	
Question 9	Is it right that the development would come right to the older people's home and that the whole open space area would go rather than just the strip of the playing field? Is the nursery school going or staying?
Response	Response and supplementary questions from 1:19:23 to 1:23:12
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Fleming to find out what the situation is with the nursery school located in the Woodville Centre adjacent to the Ham Close development.
Question 10	Can we be assured by Cllr Fleming that no one will get moved out of the area whilst this development is going on?
Response	See question 9 above

Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 11	There is a further consultation time from December – January. As far as Ham Close is concerned we have been consulted and we do not like the proposal so what is the point? We accept that there needs to be an increase in the housing but this is over 100% and we have had this consultation and we had these plans and what is the point?
Response	See question 9 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 12	Is the kindergarten on Woodville staying or going?
Response	See question 9 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See question 9 above
Question 13	<p>I went to the nursery on Woodville Road; the children are currently spending 60/70% of their time outside in the green space. However with their outdoor policy and the development going on how will we protect against children breathing in polluted air during the building phase?</p> <p>When we bought a flat in 2012 the difference between flat prices was 12%, now it's 40%. Question is – my home will be evaluated by a chartered surveyor and it will be priced by a developer. The difference is 50%. The majority of leaseholders are already retired and so we cannot afford this. So when you say all that want to stay will stay – this is not true.</p>
Response	Response from 1:27:19 to 1:31:02.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader and Cllr Fleming to discuss Ham Close leaseholders' concerns with RHP.
Question 14	The Ham close development will bring an additional 100 cars. It sounds as though you are about to destroy this – you are building council blocks on open land, taking the playing field. So much for H&P being named a Village let alone the best village.
Response	See question 13 above to
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader and Cllr Fleming to discuss open space and additional traffic concerns with RHP.
Question 15	All I'm concerned about is that you are building on the green so that people can move in more quickly. Why have you ruled this out? Why can't we just do this?

Response	Response from 1:33:11 to 1:35:31
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 16	<p>I don't live in Ham Close but I've walked in here not familiar with these facts – if the lady here is saying that she cannot afford to move back into her flat then aren't we witnessing ethnic cleansing?</p> <p>The reason they can do a compulsory purchase order which can only be issued by the council – if you say that they can't use this in their communication to their leaseholders this would help us greatly but they keep threatening us with this.</p>
Response	See question 15 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader and Cllr Fleming to discuss Ham Close leaseholders' concerns with RHP.
Question 17	Who is the owner of RHP?
Response	See question 15 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 18	What is the control, if any, over RHP selling properties to people who want to buy to let? This is part of the problem for young people getting on the ladder locally as it takes the properties off the market.
Response	Response from 1:37:29 to 1:39:09.
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 19	I live on Ham Close, I did a project recently on the conditions that we live in on the close. The flats are no longer fit for purpose. So whether you build 450 or 10, something needs to happen on Ham Close.
Response	See question 18 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 20	<p>Adam Tucker – project director for Ham Close.</p> <p>Is it very easy for people who have a home to resist more homes being built, however if you are living in homes with damp or you do not have a home at all then this is different.</p> <p>We have carried out some research using TPAS to analyse all of the regeneration schemes happening in London. The simple fact</p>

	is that there is more social housing happening in Ham than any other regeneration proposal in London bar one. If I could build cycle parking rather than car parking we would. But Ham Close is doubling in density whereas most other Housing schemes are tripling intensity.
Response	None
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 21	I live on Woodville Road – I entirely agree that redevelopment is much better but we are facing overdevelopment. The concern is the loss of green spaces as this is one reason that people move to this area. We live in a cul-de-sac which already has more cars. If we could extend the K5 bus route that would be perfect. What I do not like about the development is that the balconies are facing Woodville road which means that there is not privacy for them or us – balconies should be on the side of the building.
Response	RHP response from 1:43:53 to 1:46:13
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader and Councillor Fleming to discuss open space and traffic concerns with RHP.
Question 22	If people are objecting to so many more buildings then why don't the Council sort out the people who are living in 2/3 bedroom houses on their own. This would sort the housing problem.
Response	See question 21 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Question 23	How come Ham has gone from deprivation to being voted best Village?
Response	Response from 1:46:42 to 1:49:42
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Parking	
Question 24	Daniel Harrigan – the road from Ham Common to Ham Gate is getting very busy with parked cars and very dangerous especially at weekends. Can I request some kind of natural break to be placed there so that when you drive into Ham Gate people can see they have a series of points to pull in safely and wait for other cars to pass? It is getting very busy and needs a little bit of attention.
Response	Response and supplementary question (below) from 1:51:22 to 1:53:00
Action to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers will be asked to look into this and see if a scheme can be implemented.

be taken	
Question 25	I really wish to impress upon you that point which has just been made. It is getting worse and worse. I am getting more upset about the lack of parking immediately outside Ham Gate. Please look at it.
Response	See question 24 above
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Ham Post Office	
Question 26	Jude Holmes – our local Post Office has suffered 2 serious breaks in recently and I understand that they have had to apply for planning permission to get metal shutters on the front and I hope they will not have to jump through too many hoops to get this. I think it's important we support for this.
Response	Response from 1:53:54 to 1:54:04
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Seymour: will look out for the application and will make sure it goes through a smoothly as possible.
Bridge proposal	
Question 27	Daniel Paleswell – my attention was drawn to an article in the Ham and Petersham magazine about a proposed footbridge from Ham Street car park over to Twickenham side and given the opportunity I would object strongly to this because one of the things I most treasure about Ham is its isolation and I think it would be in danger of becoming a thoroughfare, not to mention the foot ferry would disappear from being the oldest foot ferry in London, and it contributes very much to the character of the area. So, I was just wandering what was happening to that proposal? I'm hoping it's gone away.
Response	Response from 1:54:55 to 1:56:38
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Pavement repairs	
Question 28	Gill Lamb – When will the Lock Road Pavement repairs happen?
Response	Response from 1:57:15 to 1:57:33
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Buckwell offered to speak to the resident afterwards and find out a date for the works.
Electric charging points	
Question	Electric vehicle charging points – proposal to have a charging point outside the library – where is this? What is the strategy for

29	EVCP's across the borough?
Response	Response from 1:58:28 to 2:02:08
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Buckwell offered to speak to the resident afterwards.
Russell School Development	
Question 30	Claire McKenzie – Ham and Petersham Association – The beauty of the Russell School was the fantastic natural environment. The wildlife garden, the orchard and the allotment have been destroyed, the schools planning plans should have been submitted eighteen months ago, when will the council engage the community and get a grip on this project?
Response	Response and supplementary comments from 2:02:44 to 2:05:13
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Chappell to speak to resident and raise at meeting the following day.
Roadworks and congestion	
Question 31	Roadworks on Petersham Road – please could the lights only be turned on when necessary. It seemed a week when I was driving past them and nothing was happening. Could someone make the point only to turn the lights on when it's completely necessary?
Response	Response from 2:06:14 to 2:09:39
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors will have a conversation with utility companies to ensure that there is better communication.
Conservation	
Question 32	<p>Thank you for coming to Ham and Petersham</p> <p>A lot of us locally have been rather upset that one very old cottage in the Ham Common Conservation Area was recently demolished without permission; it should never have been demolished. There's a strong feeling that a lot of people in Richmond Council struggle to know what Ham and Petersham is and probably wouldn't even know about that particular cottage. Now your merging the services with Wandsworth, how can you guarantee that the feeling of alienation which Ham and Petersham sometimes feels, won't get worse?</p>
Response	Response from 2:10:49 to 2:12:22
Action to be taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the responsibility as Councillors leading the Council that the policies and character of the area are not lost.